Use of Non-Polluting Fuels for Automotive Vehicles

1201. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of Government to encourage use of non-polluting fuels for automotive vehicles like LPG or CNG;

(b) whether this policy is in tandem with the policy for encouragement of use of non-conventional energy, whereunder wide ranging subsidies are given on equipments etc. and if not why;

(c) whether it is a fact that for CNG kits, huge deposit of over Rupees 30,000/ is required to be made;

(d) if so, why and in what manner this will encourage conversion of automobiles into CNG fuel; and

(e) whether Government would consider reduction of deposit to nominal level to encourage use of LPG/CNG kits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Government has taken in principle decision to permit the use of LPG as an automotive fuel, which will be made possible after necessary amendments in Motor Vehicles Act, LPG Control Order and other relevant Rules are carried out.

As regards use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), it has already been introduced in Delhi, Mumbai and Baroda as an automotive fuel considering its positive impact on pollution abatement.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, no subsidy on LPG for automotive use is possible.

(c) and (d) Although there is no requirement of initial deposit, an initial investment is required to be made for fitment of CNG conversion kits on vehicles using CNG as fuel. This investment can be recovered in 1-2 from the savings made by the use of CNG in place of petrol, depending upon the daily running of vehicle as CNG is about 60% cheaper than petrol.

(e) Does not arise.

Misuse of Oil Pool Fund by Foreign Hand

1202. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister suspects foreign hand in the misuse of oil pool fund to the tune of Rs. 28,900 crores;

(b) whether Government would conduct a searching inquiry into the matter; and

(c) if so, by when and in what time frame and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As per a communication received in this Ministry a few days ago, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture has expressed his concern about inadequate allotment/non-allotment of funds by Ministry of Finance to Oil Industry Development Board. There is no mention of "foreign hand" in this communication.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

तेल तथा प्राकृतिक गैस निगम में प्रति बैरल उत्पादन की लागत

1203. श्री राम जेठमलानी: क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में तेल तथा प्राकृतिक गैस निगम में प्रति बैरल उत्पादन की लागत विश्व की अनेक बड़ी कंपनियों की तुलना में कम है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो मोबिल, शैल, बी०पी० ऐम्को तथा ऐग्जॉन की तुलना में तेल तथा प्राकृतिक गैस निगम में प्रति बैरल उत्पादन लागत कितनी है; और

(ग) यदि देश में तेल की उत्पादन लागत कम है, तो सामान्य उपभोक्ता को इसका लाभ न मिलने के क्या-क्या कारण है?